

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 EUR-12 EB-08
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155773

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AR, SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ARGENTINE REACTION TO KENNEDY
HUMPHREY AMENDMENT.

1. ARGENTINE NAVY CAPTAIN JOSE SUAREZ, OF THE NAVY
ATTACHES OFFICE IN WASHINGTON CALLED ON DEPOFF JUNE 15.
AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION OF AVAILABILITY OF HELICOPTER
GENERATORS, SUAREZ GOT DOWN TO REAL REASON FOR HIS VISIT--
THE ARGENTINE REACTION TO THE KENNEDY-HUMPHREY AMENDMENT.

2. THE CAPTAIN SAID THE EMBARGO ON MILITARY SALES AFTER
OCTOBER 1 WAS REALLY NOT TERRIBLY SIGNIFICANT. MOST
EQUIPMENT COULD AND WOULD BE PURCHASED FROM THE
EUROPEANS. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OCTOBER 1 WAS THE BACK-
LASH WHICH IT WOULD GENERATE AGAINST THE U.S. AMONG THE
ARGENTINE OFFICER CORPS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT ARGENTINA
WOULD CANCEL SOME OUTSTANDING MILITARY AGREEMENTS IN
RETALIATION FOR THE EMBARGO.

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3. HE SAID HE TRULY DISLIKED THE WAY EVENTS WERE DEVELOPING
BUT HE THOUGHT THE U.S. MISUNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION IN
ARGENTINA. A NEGATIVE ACTION WAS ASSURED; THE ARGENTINES
WERE TOO PROUD A PEOPLE TO LET THE EMBARGO PASS UNOTICED.
WHEN THE MILITARY DID REACT AGAINST THE U.S. IT WOULD

BE A POPULAR MEASURE. UNFORTUNATELY THE U.S. MAKES A
GOOD WHIPPING BOY.

4. THE RESTORATION OF MILITARY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND ARGENTINE, ONCE SEVERED, WOULD TAKE MANY YEARS
TO RESTORE, HE SUGGESTED.

COMMENT: WHILE MUCH OF THIS IS OLD HAT, THIS IS THE FIRST
INDICATION IN WASHINGTON THAT ARGENTINA MAY BE CONSIDERING
SPECIFIC RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST HUMPHREY-KENNEDY
AMENDMENT RESTRICTIONS. CAN EMBASSY COMMENT? VANCE

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